

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) Apparatus adapted to be placed through a body tissue and implanted in a vein for the purpose of intake of fluid through an aperture thereof, comprising:

a hollow tube defining at least one aperture; and

at least one extension operative to be at at least two positions with respect to said aperture, a first position near said aperture and a second position in which at least part of said extension extends away from said aperture, wherein if said aperture is blocked by an impediment, relative movement of said at least one extension with respect to said aperture, from said first position to said second position, operates to dislodge the impediment from said aperture;

wherein the hollow tube is characterized by a length of not more than 10 cm.

2. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said at least one aperture comprises a front inlet at a front end of said tube.

3. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least one aperture comprises one or more side openings in a side of said tube.

4. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said at least one aperture comprises at least one front opening at a front end of said tube and at least one side opening in a side of said tube.

5. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said at least one extension is configured so that moving said at least one extension from said first position to said second position operates to displace an impediment which comprises an aggregate of solid material.

6. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said at least one extension is configured so that moving said at least one extension from said first position to said second position operates to displace an impediment which is down-flow from said hollow tube.

7. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said at least one extension is configured so that moving said at least one extension from said first position to said second position operates to displace an impediment which is at least partly within said hollow tube.

8. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said at least one extension is configured so that moving said at least one extension from said first position to said second position operates to displace an impediment comprising a venous valve.

9. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said at least one extension is configured so that moving said at least one extension from said first position to said second position operates to displace an impediment comprising body tissue.

10. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said impediment comprises inflamed body tissue ~~is inflamed~~.

11. (Previously presented) Apparatus of claim 1 wherein said hollow tube is adapted to be implanted in a vein and withstand unimpeded intake of fluid for a period of one or more weeks.

12. (Previously presented) Apparatus of claim 1 wherein said hollow tube is adapted to be implanted in a vein and withstand unimpeded intake of fluid for a period of one or more months.

13. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, comprising an activating mechanism.

14. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said activating mechanism causes said at least one extension to extend from said first position to said second position.

15. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said activating mechanism causes said at least one extension to un-extend from said second position to said first position.

16. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said activating mechanism comprises a locking mechanism that, when unlocked, allows said extensions to extend from said first position to said second position.

17. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 13 wherein at least a portion of said activating mechanism is external to said body tissue.

18. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 13 wherein a portion of said one or more extensions is external to said body tissue.

19. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the activating mechanism is manually activated.

20. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the activating mechanism is automatically activated.

21. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 adapted so that said relative movement of said at least one extension occurs prior to ~~said-an~~ intake of fluid through said aperture.

22. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 adapted so that said relative movement of said at least one extension occurs during ~~said-an~~ intake of fluid through said aperture.

23. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 adapted so that said relative movement of said at least one extension occurs following ~~said-an~~ intake of fluid through said aperture.

24. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 adapted so that at least some relative movement of said at least one extension takes place irrespective of intake of fluid.

25. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein at least part of said one or more extensions, overlaps a front end of said tube when said extensions are in a first position.

26. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said at least one aperture is covered by said at least one extension in said first position.

27. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said at least one aperture is arranged to be covered in said first position.

28. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein one or more of said hollow tube and said at least one extension comprise a material that prevents or retards aggregation of solids from ~~said a~~ a fluid.

29. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein one or more of said hollow tube and said at least one extension comprise a material that prevents or retards clot formation.

30. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein one or more of said hollow tube and said at least one extension comprise a material that prevents or retards body tissue inflammatory response.

31. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein one or more of said hollow tube and said at least one extension comprise a material that prevents or retards bacteria colonization.

32. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the at least one extension comprises at least one expandable element.

33. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 32 wherein said at least one expandable element expands when filled with expansion fluid.

34. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 33, comprising an activating mechanism including a reservoir containing expansion fluid connected to said at least one expandable element.

35. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 33 wherein said expansion fluid comprises a material that affects the formation of impediments and wherein said at least one expandable element is at least partly permeable to said material.

36. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the one or more extensions comprise an extension with a deformable area.

37. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 36, wherein when said deformable area deforms, said extension extends from said first position to said second position.

38. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 36 wherein when said extension un-extends from said second position to said first position, said deformable area returns to its pre-deformed state.

39. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the at least one extension comprise resilient extensions.

40. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 1, comprising a sheath for selectively controlling a position to which said extensions extend.

41. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 40, wherein when said at least one extension exits distally from said sheath they deflect radially.

42. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 1, comprising an extension tube of which said extensions form a distal section, wherein axial distal motion of said extension tube causes said extensions to extend.

43. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 42, wherein a distal section of said extension tube is axially fixed to a front of said hollow tube and wherein said extension tube is slotted.

44. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least one extension is adapted for an arm vein.

45. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least one extension is adapted for a non-vein vessel.

46. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said positions are axially displaced.

47. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said positions are radially displaced.

48. (Withdrawn and Currently amended) A method of taking fluid from a vein, the method comprising of:

implanting an apparatus in a vein, the apparatus comprising of:

a hollow tube defining at least one aperture; and

at least one extension;

taking fluid from the vein through said at least one aperture; and

displacing an impediment from said at least one aperture by extending said at least one

extension

wherein the hollow tube is characterized by a length of not more than 10 cm.

49. (New) Apparatus adapted to be placed through a body tissue and implanted in a vein for the purpose of intake of fluid through an aperture thereof, comprising:

a hollow tube defining at least one aperture; and

at least one extension operative to be at at least two positions with respect to said aperture, a first position near said aperture and a second position in which at least part of said extension extends away from said aperture, wherein if said aperture is blocked by an impediment, relative movement of said at least one extension with respect to said aperture, from said first position to said second position, operates to dislodge the impediment from said aperture;

wherein the at least one aperture is located on the hollow tube.

50. (New) Apparatus adapted to be placed through a body tissue and implanted in a vein for the purpose of intake of fluid through an aperture thereof, comprising:

a hollow tube defining at least one aperture; and

at least one extension operative to be at at least two positions with respect to said aperture, a first position near said aperture and a second position in which at least part of said extension extends away from said aperture, wherein if said aperture is blocked by an impediment, relative movement of said at least one extension with respect to said aperture, from said first position to said second position, operates to dislodge the impediment from said aperture;

wherein the extensions do not provide a channel of fluid communication through which a fluid sample can be conducted to outside of the body tissue.